

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as shown:

Please delete the paragraph on page 7, lines 14-17, and replace it with the following paragraph:

Figure 1: it shows the amino acid sequence of MCP-2 **(SEQ ID NO: 1)** and of its known variant **(SEQ ID NO: 2)**. Signal sequences are reported in *italics*, whereas C - residues are in **bold**. Arrows indicate the first amino acids of the amino-terminally truncated MCP-2(6-76) of the invention. Underlined is the amino acid, which is different in the MCP-2 variant.

Please delete the paragraph on page 12, lines 16-26, and replace it with the following paragraph:

TABLE I

Biochemical characterization of natural forms of MCP-2. NH₂-terminal amino acid sequence analysis and comparison of the experimental (SDS-PAGE and MALDI/TOF-MS) and theoretical Mr of C-8 RP-HPLC purified natural MCP-isoforms.

MCP-form	NH ₂ -terminal sequence	Mr (Da)		
		theoretical unglycosylated	SDS-PAGE	MALDI/TOF-MS
MCP-2 (1-76)	blocked	8893	7500	8881
MCP-2 (2-76)	SIPITCC <u>(residues 6-12 of the mature portion of SEQ ID NOS 1 & 2, or residues 1-7 of SEQ ID NOS 3 & 4)</u>	8384	7000	8365